

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, 20-25, 27, 28, and 32 are present in this application. Claims 20-23 have been withdrawn as allegedly being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1 and 24 are independent claims.

Claims 33-35 have been added to cover subject matter of previously canceled claims 9, 12, and 26, respectively.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) – Lapointe, Srivastava

The rejection of claims 1-6, 8-13, 20-28, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaPointe in view of Srivastava is maintained. Claims 20-23 have not been examined. The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaPointe, Srivastava, in view of Chien is maintained.

Applicants traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to embodiments of an electronic equipment. The electronic equipment including at least one light source, in which light of the light source is guided and emitted from an operation member having translucent properties via an optical waveguide and a region that contains phosphor and separate from the light source for emitting visible light by being excited by the light from the light source is contained in a path through which the light of the light source is guided.

Claim 24 is directed to embodiments of an electronic equipment. The electronic equipment includes a backlight and a wavelength-converting phosphor paint, which is separate from the backlight, emits light by being excited by the light of the backlight.

The Office Action indicates that the light source 19 of Lapointe et al. constitutes both the claimed "light source," or "backlight," and "phosphor" contained in a path through which the light of the light source is guided. (Office Action at page 2).

Applicants submit that Lapointe does not disclose phosphore that is separate from the light source/backlight.

LaPointe discloses an electroluminescent lamp 19 that overlays a printed circuit board 21. An embodiment of the electroluminscent lamp is shown in Fig. 2 as element 19a. The electroluminscent lamp 19a includes an electroluminscent layer 31 composed of an electroluminscent material, such as copper-activated zinc sulphide (col. 4, lines 45-51), as well as a phosphor material (col. 5, line 24). The electroluminscent lamp is illuminated by impressing a voltage between front electrode 29 and back electrode 35. The voltage excites the phosphor material in electroluminscent layer 31 causing it to glow. An elastomeric sheet 17 overlays the electroluminscent lamp.

Thus, it can be seen that LaPointe's electroluminscent layer 31 is the light source, which is excited by application of a voltage. LaPointe's electroluminescent layer is not a backlight for exciting a phosphor.

In the present invention, among other things a phosphor that is separate from the light source enables interchangeable emission colors without having to replace the light source/backlight (specification at page 6, para. 0029). In order to clarify this aspect of the claimed invention, claims 1 and 24 have been amended.

For at least the above-stated reasons and amendments, Applicants submit that the combination of LaPointe and Srivastava fail to teach each and every element of claims 1 and 24.

Furthermore, Srivastava discloses a light emitting diode (LED) including a phosphor for emitting green light. The LED, encapsulated in a resin 60, is contained in a housing 12 having a phosphor material 24 at a window 16 (see Fig. 2). The light emitting diode emits light at a first wavelength and the phosphor receives the light and converts the light to a light of a second wavelength ("summary of the invention").

Because Srivastava discloses a light source directly below the phosphor material, even if LaPointe's electroluminescent layer 31 were to be replaced by the LED/phosphor of Srivastava, the replacement would render LaPointe's keypad unsuitable for its intended function. (see *M.P.E.P.* § 2143.01 V.) Exerting pressure on the key 15 of LaPointe would cause deflection of Srivastava's phosphor material, but not cause contact of the conductor 37.

At least for these additional reasons, Applicants submit that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

With regard to claim 25, the Office Action admits that LaPointe and Srivastava fail to disclose the claimed range for emission wavelength from 400 to 430 nm, and instead indicates that the applicant must show that the chosen dimensions are critical.

Criticality of the specific wavelength is disclosed in paragraph 0031 of the present specification, where it is pointed out that a light source emitting a wavelength smaller than 400 nm can cause damage to human eyes.

For at least this reason, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 25 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Further with respect to claim 32, the Office Action indicates that LaPointe discloses the phosphor material is in the electroluminescent layer, and therefore the phosphor surrounds the light source. Applicants disagree.

Applicants submit that the phosphor material of LaPointe is the source of light, and thus does not surround the light source, as required in the claim.

For at least this reason, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 32 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$450.00 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

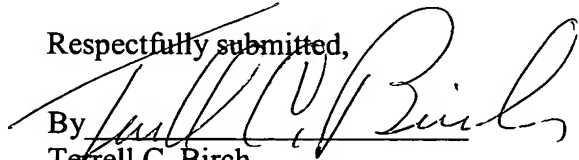
Application No. 10/806,109
Amendment dated September 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 28, 2006

Docket No.: 0951-0132P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



By

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